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104FW assesses capabilities with mobility exercise

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104FW assesses capabilities with mobility exercise

By Staff Sgt. Hanna Smith



104th Fighter Wing Airmen process through a Pre-Deployment Function line as part of a mobility exercise August 14, 2021, at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts. Mobility exercises test the wing's ability to rapidly deploy aircraft, equipment, personnel and cargo. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Hanna Smith)

Airmen from across the 104th Fighter Wing participated in a mobility exercise August 9-16, 2021 at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts.

This exercise tested several units on their ability to rapidly deploy and process aircraft, equipment, cargo and personnel while maintaining mission readiness at home station.

Several units across the wing were involved and evaluated throughout

the duration of this exercise, which included: the wing's, the maintenance group, the operations group, the logistics readiness squadron, the force support squadron among several others.

For Tech. Sgt. Jason Edinger, a crew chief with the 104th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, the mobility exercise was a rewarding experience.

"During this mobility exercise it was rewarding to see how our maintainers

were tested with the pressure of having to rapidly mobilize aircraft and equipment as safely and effectively as possible," said Edinger. "This exercise really demonstrated where we are at capabilities-wise and what we can accomplish in preparation for the future."

While crew chiefs prepare the aircraft for launch, members of the operations group work behind the scenes to ensure pilots and personnel are informed and trained for the mission at hand.

"Our job as operations personnel is to make sure that our aircrew and pilots are informed, qualified and prepared to deploy," said Master Sgt. Jaime Santiago, an aviation resource management specialist with the 104th Operations Group. "It is crucial that we identify flaws and work out kinks during exercises like these so that things don't break down if we have to mobilize for a real operation. It was also rewarding to see everyone come together to accomplish the mission."

Generating and mobilizing aircraft and equipment would be impossible

without logistical readiness Airmen like Senior Airman Jeremy Ethier, a traffic management specialist with the 104th Logistical Readiness Squadron.

"Our role, as a logistics unit during this mobility exercise, was ensuring that all the cargo and all our Airmen have exactly what they need to deploy and what we do it as efficiently and accurately as possible," said Ethier. "One of the main responsibilities that my team was tasked with was performing joint-inspections on some of the cargo and equipment. We have to be spot on with our work because the numbers gathered during this point in the mobility process directly impacts aircraft loading and placement."

The last but certainly not the least, any mission, exercise or operation, would be inoperable without the Airmen, and Force Support Airmen worked alongside other wing support agencies throughout the mobility exercise to ensure that those heading out on mission are ready across the board for

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104FW assesses capabilities with mobility exercise, continued

By Staff Sgt. Hanna Smith

wherever they are heading.

“Force Support Airmen covered four crucial roles through the duration of the exercise which included: the Personnel Deployment Function line, the Installation Deployment Readiness Center, the Reception Control Center and the baggage team,” said 2nd Lt. Heather Dragon, Director of Force Support with the 104th Force Support Squadron. “Each area had hurdles to overcome, but were hugely successful due to their positive attitudes and collaboration with other wing agencies.”

104 FW leadership was pleased with how Barnestormers came together to execute the mobility mission during the exercise.

“Excellent job by everyone across the board,” said Col. David ‘Moon’ Halaski-Kun, vice commander of the 104 FW. “Our Airmen were able to skillfully execute the mission and demonstrate our rapid deployment capabilities.”



Airman 1st Class Jennifer Joseph, a materials handler with the 104th Logistics Readiness Squadron, secures a pallet during a mobility exercise August 13, 2021, at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts. Mobility exercises test the wing’s ability to rapidly deploy aircraft, equipment, personnel and cargo. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Hanna Smith)



104th Fighter Wing Airmen process through a Pre-Deployment Function line as part of a mobility exercise August 14, 2021, at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts. Mobility exercises test the wing’s ability to rapidly deploy aircraft, equipment, personnel and cargo. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Hanna Smith)



Crew chiefs with the 104th Fighter Wing’s Aircraft Maintenance Squadron receive and process F-15 Eagles during a mobility exercise August 15, 2021, at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts. Mobility exercises test the wing’s ability to rapidly deploy aircraft, equipment, personnel and cargo. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Hanna Smith)

Celebrating Hispanic American Heritage Month

By Tech. Sgt. Robert Cyr, 104th Fighter Wing equal opportunity specialist

September 16 through October 15 is Hispanic American Heritage Month. Hispanic and Latinx traditions and culture from places as diverse as Cuba, Spain, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and other Latin American and Iberian nations have had a major influence on our society.

In the Department of Defense our Hispanic and Latinx military members represent roughly 20 percent of our total fighting force, and about 11 percent here at the 104th Fighter Wing.

During World War I, Private Marcelino Serna became the first Hispanic/Latino American to receive the Distinguished Service Cross for his heroic actions in combat. Private Serna, who was born in Mexico, joined the United States Army in order to obtain citizenship and repeatedly asked to be put on the front line to fight for his country. At one point during his tenure in the trenches he spotted and followed a German sniper back to his trench location, and in a solitary surprise attack killed 26 of the enemy, capturing an additional 24 German soldiers.

The first Hispanic/Latino American to receive the Medal of Honor was Private Joseph Martinez. Private Martinez served in World War II, most famously in the 1943 Battle of the Attu. While pinned down by enemy fire, Private Martinez led his regiment in repeated assaults against enemy trenches. On multiple occasions during the assault he pulled so far ahead of his men that he took out entire trenches of the enemy by himself. He continued fighting, even after being mortally wounded, and ultimately led his regiment to finally take the entirety of the enemy position.

In 2011, Master Sgt. Leroy Petry received the Medal of Honor for his actions while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. While on a mission to capture a Taliban leader in the province of Paktia, his team came under direct fire. Petry was wounded in both legs. Despite his injuries he continued to engage the enemy and issue orders to the rest of his team. In the midst of the fighting, a grenade landed between him and the other soldiers in his unit.

He grabbed it and threw it away as quickly as he could. While the grenade's explosion severed his right hand, he was able to successfully save the soldiers' lives. Thankfully Petry survived the encounter and elected to continue to serve despite his injuries, and retired in 2014.

This is just the briefest sampling of the contributions made to our fighting force by our Hispanic and Latinx members. There are many other stories still to be told. This month, let us take a brief moment to acknowledge and celebrate their contribution to our shared freedoms.



Headlines and Highlights

104th Public Affairs Office



[104SFS combatives training](#)



[2021 TIME Conference](#)



[O2X Sweat Session](#)



[Reminders of heroism, sacrifice, 9/11](#)



[Pratt & Whitney, City of Northampton Tour](#)



[104LRS mobility exercise](#)

Welcomes, Farewells, Promotions and Points of Contact

104th Public Affairs Office

Recruiters

If you want to learn about a career with the 104th Fighter Wing call one of our recruiters to learn more about serving in the Air National Guard, and the benefits you can receive, including 100% tuition and fee waiver.

- Recruiting Office Supervisor, Master Sgt. Glendaennis Schuster (413) 237-0427**
- Retention Office Manager, Tech. Sgt. Bento Fernandes, (413) 636-2291**
- Worcester Area Recruiter, Tech. Sgt. Brian Whitman, (413) 237-4525**
- Western Mass Recruiter, Tech. Sgt. Ernest Smith, (413) 237-0982**
- Western Mass Recruiter, Tech Sgt. Kayla Gallagher, (413) 207-5186**

Are you looking for a new drill status guardsman opportunity at the 104th Fighter Wing? Take a look at our 104FW DSG career opportunities page on our SharePoint Page.

[DSG Careers on SharePoint](#)

Yes, your CAC is required to access SharePoint.

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Welcomes

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Airman 1st Class Russel, Grace - MDG | Staff Sgt. Brohman, Hailee - FW |
| Airman 1st Class Ajil-Yasser, Amed - AMXS | Tech Sgt. Jaques, Christopher - SFS |
| Senior Airman Francorodriquez, Korey - MDG | Tech Sgt. Knowles, Jeremy - CPTF |
| Senior Airman Colglazier, Korey - SFS | Master Sgt. Gallien, Joshua - LRS |
| | Master Sgt. Erdmann, Bradford - MSG |

Farewells

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Tech. Sgt. Cynthia Wilson, MXS | Tech. Sgt. Amarelis Rodriguez, MSG |
| Tech. Sgt. Ashley Sheffield, AMXS | Master Sgt. Adam Barabani, LRS |
| Tech. Sgt. Timothy C. Bellile, AMXS | Senior Master Sgt. Shannon Huard, FW |
| Tech. Sgt. Jason Schrecke, CF | |

Promotions

- | | |
|--|--|
| Airman Palosina, Hanna - FSS | Tech. Sgt. Gillette, Jason - CF |
| Airman 1st Class Clarke, Twayne - LRS | Staff Sgt. Frappier, Nathan - AMXS |
| Airman 1st Class Gates, Elizabeth - CPTF | Staff Sgt. Deming, Clayton - AMXS |
| Airman 1st Class Pagnoni, Farah - FSS | Staff Sgt. Andrades, William - SFS |
| Airman 1st Class Hall, Anthony - FSS | Staff Sgt. Leven, Cassandra - MOF |
| Airman 1st Class Gezotis, Shaun - FSS | Staff Sgt. Baczek, Weronika - MDG |
| Senior Airman Macintosh, Zachary - CF | Tech. Sgt. Gillette, Jason - CF |
| Senior Airman Griswold, Hannah - OSF | Tech. Sgt. Rodriguez Inserni, Angel - SF |
| Senior Airman Halbrook, Alec - AMXS | Tech. Sgt. Rose, Katrina - FSS |
| Staff Sgt. Di Lorenzo, Isabella - AMXS | Tech. Sgt. Andreas, Daniel - MOF |
| Staff Sgt. Kolinski, Sara - FW | Tech. Sgt. Bourdon, Adam - MOF |
| Staff Sgt. Frappier, Nathan - AMXS | Master Sgt. Tourtellotte, John - CES |
| Staff Sgt. Deming, Clayton - AMXS | Master Sgt. Day, Corey - AMXS |
| Staff Sgt. Andrades, William - SFS | Master Sgt. Hartwig, Jason - FSS |
| Staff Sgt. Leven, Cassandra - MOF | Master Sgt. Lanci, Nicholas - CES |
| Staff Sgt. Baczek, Weronika - MDG | Master Sgt. Jorristisma, Jeffrey - MOF |

Wellness Center Points of Contact

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- Mary Keeler, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, mary.keeler.2@us.af.mil**
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